STATUS OF NON-INVASION PLEDGE ON CUBA

At the moment this question remains academic. In the absence of necessary verification within Cuba that all offensive weapons have been removed and the establishment of adequate safeguards against their return as set forth in my understanding with Chairman Khrushchev, there is no occasion for formal U.S. assurances on the subject of invasion. But this does not mean that we want to invade Cuba. As I said on September 13, "We shall neither initiate nor permit aggression in this hemisphere" if offensive weapons systems are removed, kept out of this hemisphere in the future -- and if there is no effort to export aggressive communist purposes from Cuba -- and if there is no interference from Cuba with the security of the countries of this Hemisphere, there can be peace in the Caribbean. And that is what this Government wants.

P:JLGreenfield:ls
G:UAJohnson:ges